

The Kfeirian Times

The Official Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Newsletter



Columbus, Ohio, hosts the 70th annual Kfeirian Reunion Foundation gathering!

The Kfeirian Reunion Board invites you to join us in Columbus, Ohio, August 2-4, 2002. We look forward to marking the 70th year of our foundation; a unique gathering of family and friends.

We'll stay in the center of all the excitement! The Hyatt Regency is perfectly located in the heart of Columbus, within minutes of some of the city's major attractions. Fodor's Travel Guide describes Columbus as one of the "overlooked and underrated places to visit... a place that enlivens the spirit and after visiting [it] you're torn between the excitement of sharing your experience with others and the fear of exposing your discovery." That's Columbus. Climb aboard for a mini-tour.

Just south of town is the German Village, a charming restored 19th century neighborhood containing beautifully renovated homes, shops and restaurants. Neighboring the German Village is the Brewery District. Established by German immigrants in the early 1800s, it thrived until the Prohibition era. The many microbreweries and sidewalk cafes demand a

bit of your time.

Don't forget to visit the Anheuser-Busch Brewery just north of town and sample some of the beer that has been brewed here since 1968.

Just blocks from the hotel is the new Nationwide Arena, home of the NHL expansion team, the Columbus Blue Jackets. The surrounding Arena District is a pedestrian-friendly "urban village" featuring several restaurants, brewpubs, shops, and a movie cinema. Turn north onto High Street and you've stepped into Short North. This popular revitalized urban neighborhood offers the city's largest, most eclectic concentration of art galleries, restaurants and night spots. Short North hosts monthly gallery hops on the first Saturday and is a great place to shop, dine, or dance the night away.

A short drive northeast of downtown brings you to the recreated 19th century Ohio Village and the boyhood home of humorist James Thurber. This living cultural center is an adventure back in time for young and old alike.

If you prefer more wildlife,

then visit the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, where famed late-night television animal guy Jack Hanna is Director Emeritus. Next door is Wyndot Lake, a water park adjacent to the zoo with more than 69 thrilling rides, slides, and attractions for all ages.

COSI is the city's science center featuring eight interac-



tive "Learning Worlds", a seven story Extreme Screen Theater and a 21st century planetarium. It's been dubbed the "Kingdom of Learning" by *Time*.

There's so much, from the Park of Roses (one of the largest in the country) to the Longaberger Homestead and dare I forget, Ohio State University. You'll just have to join us to experience it all.

Highlights:

- Reunion date: August 2-4, 2002
- Hyatt Regency Columbus at the Convention Center
- Room rate is \$95.00 per night.
- Reservations: 1-800-233-1234 or 1-614-228-1234 direct. Mention the Kfeirian Reunion.
- Make your reservation now!

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Did you say "Village Reunion"?

While in Las Vegas, someone inquired about the great music that was bellowing from our banquet hall. I went through the long explanation of how we are all descendants of people from Kfeir, Lebanon (a rather wordy answer). The person just stared at me cross-eyed until I finally said, "Basically, it's a

village reunion." And it clicked. We're family, we're friends, we're a community. What better way to celebrate our heritage than by joining together as one. So, welcome to my Village Reunion. I'm glad you are a part of my community. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. And if you didn't see your name in

print, then you need to tell me about yourself and your family. This is your newsletter. I need YOU to make it great! Email me at: KfeirNews@hotmail.com or feel free to write me at: Becky Thabet-Schulze, 117 Mecca, San Antonio, Texas 78232. I look forward to seeing you in Columbus in August, 2002.

Congratulations to the 2001-2002 Scholarship Recipients!

We're looking for updates on past scholarship recipients for the 70th Directory. Please forward a brief biography and recent photo to KfeirNews@hotmail.com or visit Kfeir.com and fill out the questionnaire.

The Board of Trustees wishes to congratulate the recipients of the 2001-2002 Kfeirian Reunion Scholarships (in alphabetical order):

Eric S. Grimm of Parkersburg, WV, son of Steven and Dee Anna (Cantees) Grimm, grandson of John and Cleta Cantees of South Charleston, WV. Eric is attending West Virginia University in Morgantown.

Rita H. Hawarny of Huntington, WV, daughter of Albert and Leila Hawarny. Rita is attending Marshall University.

Nada Lawen of Zahle, Lebanon, is attending the American University of Science and Technology. She is the niece of Nazmi Lawen of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Barbara M. Michael of Charleston, WV, is the daughter of John and Christine Michael and granddaughter of Phillip and Mae Michael. She is attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Mary E. Michael of Charleston, WV, is the daughter of Phillip and Gigi Michael and granddaughter of Phillip and Mae Michael. She is attending West Virginia University in Morgantown.

Samuel A. Morcom of Madison Heights, VA, is son of Ramond and Ellen (Ramey) Morcom and nephew of Steven Ramey of Raleigh, NC. He is attending Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Joseph M. Peck of Huntington, WV, is the son of Joseph and Mary (Hodge) Peck and grandson of Mrs. Asma Hodge. He is attending Marshall University.

Diane E. Rose of Matthews, NC, is the daughter of Stuart and Tracie (Christian) Rose and granddaughter of Don and Rose (Thabet) Christian of South Charleston, WV. Diane is attending Point Park College in Pittsburgh, PA.

www.Kfeir.com: Your Home on the World Wide Web

Did you know we have a website? It's official. www.kfeir.com is the place to be for the latest pictures from previous reunions, Kfeirian updates, family trees and Kfeirian Reunion Merchandise. There are links to websites with genealogy information as well as the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Application.

Are you sporting the latest and greatest Kfeir-wear? Visit the web page at www.kfeir.com for Las Vegas specials or buy one of the cool new logo baseball hats in a variety of colors. Baseball hats are \$10.00 plus \$3.95 shipping and handling. The

69th Reunion "Foudation" shirts and tote bags are still available for \$10.00 each as well. All proceeds will benefit the reunion.

Would you like to see anything particular on the website? Kevin Donley is our Kfeirian Web Master, so please forward any new or useful information to him at kevindonley@home.com.

Want to see your name in print? Click on the email box to send personal and family information for the newsletter directly to Becky Thabet-Schulze, Newsletter Editor, at KfeirNews@hotmail.com.

The 70th Kfeirian Reunion Commemorative Address Book

Once again the Kfeirian Reunion Board is putting together a commemorative address book and directory as well as other new and great projects. We need your help! Please make sure that the name and address information on this newsletter is correct. Any changes or additions can be sent to Matt Bassiet at 790 Bryden Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43205 or at mbassiet@columbus.rr.com.

We want this directory to reflect not only who we are but also where we came from. We're want to fill our directory with our history: pictures of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Family pages will be available honor our ancestors. Watch for more information in the upcoming mailings.

ter way to celebrate our matriarchs and patriarchs than to share our love for food. We are gathering the true essence of our culture through the stories and recipes that stirs the memories of the good ole days. Who knows, a Kfeirian cookbook could be on the horizon.

As you can imagine, the 70th reunion is going to be special. We aim to celebrate our Heritage of Distinction. So, dig out your durbakki, dust off your dancing shoes, and get ready to dance the night away. But before you do, send us your photos, your recipes and your family news so you can be a part of our history, both in the directory and in the reunion.

Love to cook? Then share the wealth! What bet-

It's going to be a year to remember.

Letter from the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation President

My fellow Kfeirians, family and friends:

The 69th Kfeirian Reunion in Las Vegas was exceptional! The Board of Trustees should be very proud! We must continue to capitalize on the enthusiasm that was created in Las Vegas and build upon it to insure the success of our future reunions. One of the greatest pleasures was the large number of "missing" Kfeirians that attended the Las Vegas Reunion. The Board is dedicated to finding new ways of attracting and retaining our brethren and invigorating our reunions. Las Vegas helped achieve just that.

This past year, the Board of Trustees voted to change some of the conventions associated with the Reunions. Primarily, we moved away from the traditional Labor Day weekend date to allow families with school age children to attend. When our founders chose Labor Day weekend, the school year started in September, but today most schools are in session by mid-August. We hope to instill the tradition of the Reunion in our children by making it possible for families to attend.

Then, starting with the Las Vegas Reunion, the Board of Trustees decided to take charge of all aspects of hosting the Reunions. This advantage allows the Board to build upon the yearly experience of hosting this event, instead of relying on a new reunion committee each year from the host city. This permits us to streamline our tasks, improve our event planning, set future sites years in advance, and book better venues. Our host city contacts, where available, are then able to best serve in an advisory capacity assisting the Board with first-hand details of the destination.

The Board has learned a great deal from this past year. We now see many ways to refine and improve. One example is the number of our mailings. Even though we increased the accuracy and size of our mailing list for Las Vegas, we realize our prospective attendees need more advance notice to schedule the reunion into their busy lives. This means we must finalize the Reunion's date and location much earlier than before and deliver that information to our prospective attendees, which is the case of the 70th Kfeirian Reunion.

Therefore, we are excited to announce that the 70th Kfeirian Reunion will take place August 2-4, 2002, at the spectacular Hyatt Regency in Downtown Columbus, Ohio. We are planning a schedule of events that will offer new and exciting things to do before, during, and after the reunion. Be on the lookout for upcoming mailings following this newsletter. We will be releasing more information on registration costs, mini-family reunions, address and directory information, and other special events we are planning.

Call and reserve your hotel room NOW! A limited number of rooms have been blocked under the "Kfeirian Reunion". Call 1-800-233-1234 to reserve your room. Rates are only \$95.00 per night for up to four people in one room. You may also extend two extra nights before and after the Reunion at the same discounted rate.

If you would like to take a virtual tour of the Hyatt Regency, go to www.columbus.hyatt.com

We look forward to seeing you in Columbus! Join us as we celebrate the 70th year of our reunion!

Sincerely,

Matthew Bassiet

President, Board of Trustees
mbassiet@columbus.rr.com

KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT THROUGH JULY 10, 2001

BEGINNING AS OF AUGUST 10, 2000

\$190.09

\$190.09

ADDITIONAL INCOME

Interest Earned on Checking	\$99.94	
Memorial Contributions	\$430.00	
68th Kfeirian Reunion Return on Printing & Mailing	\$1,286.80	
Endowment	\$1,835.00	
Conference call paid by Board Members (3)	\$116.98	
News Letter Contributions	\$220.00	
Palmerian Society Inc. / Lebanese Mens Organization	\$2,000.00	
Benevolent Society Inc. / Lebanese Ladies Organization	\$4,500.00	
Returned Check from Register.Com	\$70.00	
Returned Check from Bob Jones Univ. Stephned dropped out	\$500.00	
Transfer from Savings	\$16,199.04	
Registrations and Raffle	\$17,299.00	
Total Additional Income	\$44,556.76	\$44,556.76

DISBURSMENTS

Scholarships

Mary E. Michael, WVU	-\$1,000.00	
Barbara M. Michael, Vanderbilt	-\$1,000.00	
Joseph M. Peck, Marshall Univ.	-\$1,000.00	
Stephanie P. Hanna, Marshall Univ.	-\$500.00	
Diane E. Rose, Point Park College	-\$1,000.00	
Nada Lawen, Lebanese Univ.	-\$1,000.00	
Stephen Davis, Bob Jones Univ	-\$1,000.00	
Total Scholarship Disbursements	-\$6,500.00	-\$6,500.00

Other Expenses

Selma B. Edinger, Las Vegas Letter by Matt	-\$777.53	
Ronald Webb, Printing Co. 68th Reunion Printing	-\$433.00	
Ronald Webb, Printing Co. Scholarship & LV Post Card	-\$1,173.62	
Ronald Webb, Printing Co. Newsletter / Postage	-\$2,231.00	
Ronald Webb Printing Co. 69th Reunion final mailing	-\$1,174.30	
68th Reunion Money to pay off remaining bills	-\$299.12	
Aladdin Resort and Casino Advance	-\$12,500.00	
Outcult/Kerns Insurance	-\$467.50	
Service Charge	-\$5.00	
Kevin Donley, Software	-\$34.99	
U.S.P.S.	-\$35.40	
Register.Com Fee	-\$70.00	
Total Other Expenses	-\$19,201.46	-\$19,201.46

Balance Of Checking Account as of July 10, 2001

Bank Statement Balance	\$29,045.39
Outstanding check: #494 to Aladdin	-\$10,000.00
Check book balance	\$19,045.39

ASSETS

Investment Advisory account at Ferris, Baker, Watts	\$8,223.90	
Endowment Account at Ferris, Baker, Watts	\$45,990.86	
First Sentry Bank CD, 6.15%, Matures 11/27/2002	\$8,698.91	
	\$62,913.67	\$62,913.67

TOTAL FUND BALANCE ON JULY 10, 2001

\$81,959.06

General Assembly News 2001

The Treasurer's report indicated a checkbook balance of \$19,045.39 and Assets balance of \$62,913.67 as of July 10, 2001. Contributions were received in the amount of \$1,835.00 for the Endowment fund and Memorial Contributions of \$430.00. The Palmerian Society (Lebanese Men's Organization) and the Benevolent Society (Lebanese Women's Organization) donated a total of \$6,500.00.

The Board welcomed Mr. Simon Naufel from Kfeir, Michael Abourezk from Ottawa and Issam Thabet from Abu Daubi as well as other visitors.

We are still pursuing the retrieval of genealogical information in Kfeir. The Board hopes to find these and preserve the information onto CD-Rom for use of future generations. Jim Abourezk and Simon Naufel offered to assist in the recovery of this information.

Jim Abourezk, former U.S. Senator and Congressman from South Dakota, stated that on a recent trip to Kfeir, he was received by the entire village. The Village put forth many requests and hoped

that our Foundation could help them, starting with a playground for the children. The Kfeirian Reunion has funded many projects for Kfeir including supplying water, electricity, roads, church donations, etc. A standing committee was appointed to research and handle special projects in Kfeir on an annual basis. Members of the committee include Sue Abourezk Folley, Pam Newey, Adeeb Sadd, Jim Abourezk, and Simon Naufel.

Matthew Bassiet and Selma Edinger Basset have taken over responsibility for the mailing list. This is an ongoing and drawn out process. Please forward any corrections to Matthew Bassiet at 790 Bryden Road, Columbus, Ohio 43205.

The website will be maintained by Kevin Donley, who also serves as head of the genealogy project. Becky Thabet-Schulze took over the newsletter when Diann Michael stepped down.

Outgoing Board members include George Hanna, Christy McCoy, Mitchell Mickel, and Stephen Ramey. Newly elected Board Members are George Hanna, Jim Donley, and Abe Basset.

Annual Board Meeting News 2001

The Board of Trustees voted to solicit nominations for the vacancy on the Board based on Section Five of the Constitution entitled: "Vacancies". It reads: Vacancy caused by death, resignation, or otherwise, may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees for the unexpired term or until an election to fill such vacancy is held by the members of the General Assembly. The Board agreed to resolve the issue in the next 30 days. [Vote taken on August 26, 2001, resulted in the election of Charlie Thabet as the 12th Board member.]

Discussion of the Scholarship applications ensued. George Hanna stated that the applications were not due until August 1st and that Marshall University will review the application at that time and make recommendations based on merit and need.

Becky Thabet-Schulze reported that the hotel set the banquet on Saturday night for 282. The hotel stated that they served more than 300 people.

Newly elected officers of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Board of Directors are: President Matthew Bassiet, Vice-President, Phil

Sadd, Treasurer George Hanna, and Secretary Selma Edinger. George Hanna reported that \$6500 was contributed to the Foundation from two Huntington groups that have since dissolved.

Diann Michael is heading up a Kfeirian Cookbook honoring the women of Kfeir and their descendants. She is currently researching options for the Board to consider.

Gregg Barrett, a visitor to the Board meeting, a fund raiser by trade, and a Kfeirian, gave information regarding fund raising and offered his assistance to the Reunion. The Board appointed Matthew Bassiet, Jim Donley, Abe Bassett* and Pam Newey to a fund raising committee.

Based on the survey from the Saturday night banquet, Columbus, Ohio, was chosen as the site for the 70th reunion. Various venues were entertained for the 2003 reunion including Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a cruise, a beach city, or Washington D.C.

George Hanna thanked Diann Michael on behalf of the Board for all her hard work as President of the Board of Trustees.

Special Thanks to Diann Michael and Kevin Donley

Please allow me to take a moment to thank Diann Michael for all her work and dedication to the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation as both President of the Board of Trustees and as the editor of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Newsletter. Her hard work and determination to see the reunion into the future is an inspiration to all. Diann, thank you.

And special thanks to Kevin Donley, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, webmaster, and unofficial Genealogy King for his abili-

ties and talent. Kevin took the personal agenda of tracing his roots and extended it to the entire Kfeirian community. His "family tree" now holds over 3000 names, all received through oral history during family reunions. A link to his work can be seen on our website: www.Kfeir.com.

On behalf of all members of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, thank you both for your commitment to the Kfeirian Reunion in the past and your continued efforts for good of our collective future.

VIVA LAS VEGAS!!!

by Phil Sadd

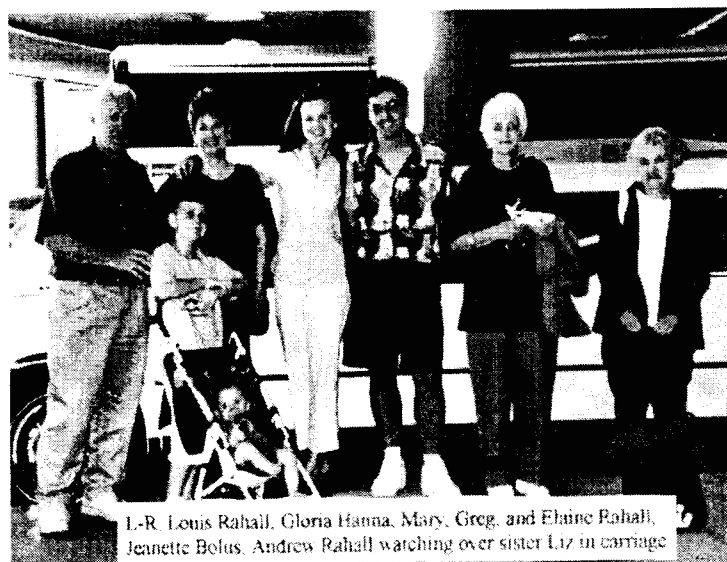
The year 2001 was a milestone for the Kfeirian Reunion. In the 69 years of the Reunion, this was the first reunion ever held in the western United States. Kfeirians from all across the globe rendezvoused at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 20-22 to celebrate the 69th consecutive Reunion of Kfeirians.

The Reunion hosted almost 300 attendees, many for the first time ever and many others who had not attended in years. "Due to the hardships in traveling cross country, many west coast Kfeirians have been unable to attend our Reunions in the past", says Reunion President Matt Bassiet. "The Board of Trustees felt it was important that geographic location no longer be a factor year after year in preventing Kfeirians from attending a Reunion. The site selection was opened to the Reunion members at the 68th Reunion in Toledo, Ohio, and Las Vegas was the most requested site."

Las Vegas also attracted many east coast Kfeirians who attended not only for the brotherhood of the Reunion, but also for the opportunity to make the weekend a vacation get-a-way. The weekend offered something for everyone and was filled with excitement, dancing, good food, shopping, entertainment, sunny skies and late night story telling. Teary eyes and heart warm embraces filled the Reunion with a spirit of unity as cousins re-kindled fond relationships and established new ones.



Loraine Scott, Selma Edinger
And Gloria Hanna in Vegas



L-R Louis Rahall, Gloria Hanna, Mary, Greg, and Elaine Rahall,
Jeannette Bolus, Andrew Rahall watching over sister Liz in carriage



L-R, John Lowen - Louis Rahall - George Hanna



Greg, Mary, and little Liz Rahall
Napping on air plane after 69th
Kfeirian Reunion in Vegas



Back Row - Jameel Sadd - Bruce Hanna - Jamie LaFear
Front Row - Charlotte Lechack - Greg, Stephanie, Gloria Hanna
Mary Elizabeth - George Hanna - Randy Sadd - Adeeb Sadd
Laila Sadd

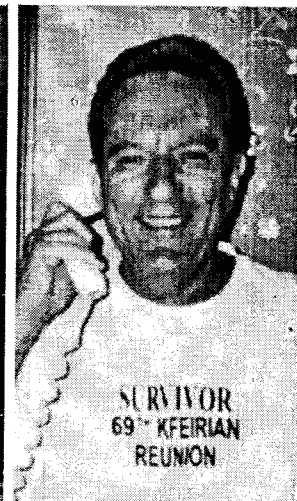
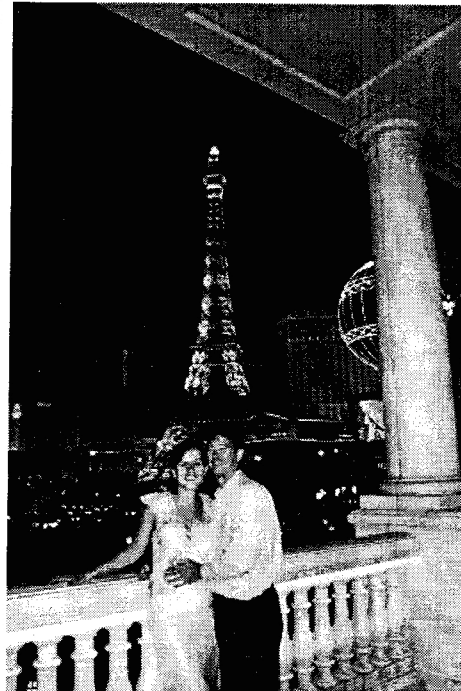
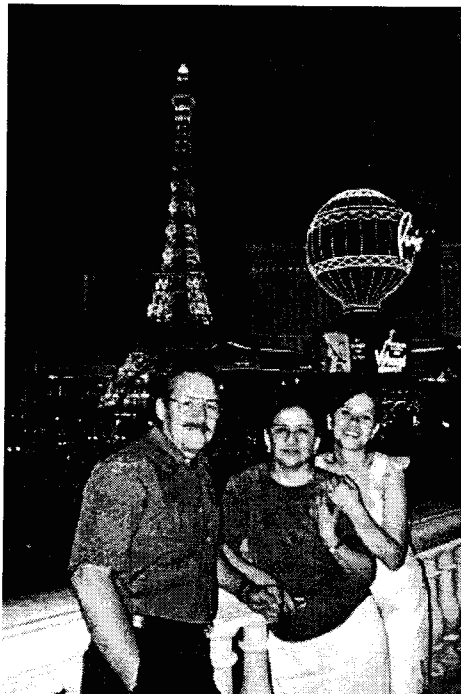


L-R, Dianne Naoufal - Gloria Hanna - Fadwa Naoufal
George Hanna - Tania Naoufal

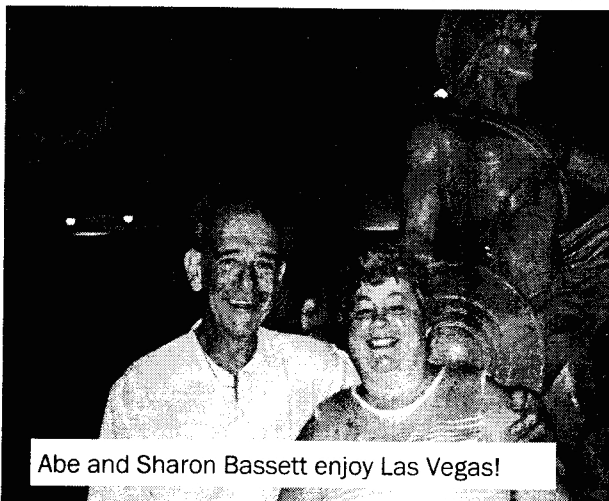


Our guests in Las Vegas included Monica Murillo-Donley's aunt and uncle, Gaston and Tere Jacott (above right) and her parents, Carlos and Yolanda Murillo (pictured below) from Chihuahua, Mexico. Kevin and Monica Donley celebrated their first anniversary in May.

Board Treasurer George Hanna was a busy man...



From dancing girls to dubki lines, high rollers to tours of the Hoover Dam, from buffets to Black Jack, and shopping to slots, we had it all in Las Vegas, July 20-22, 2001.

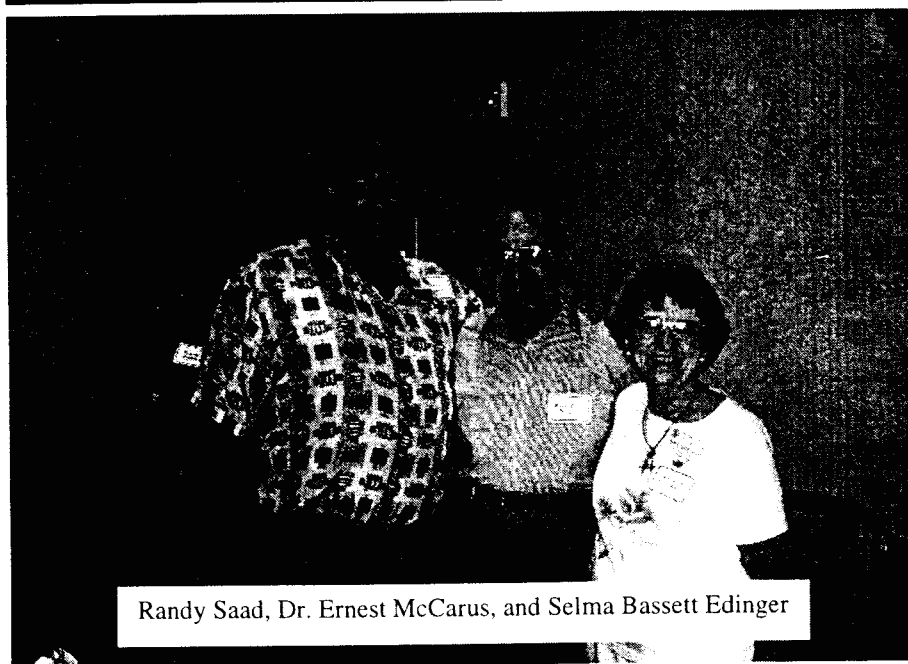


Abe and Sharon Bassett enjoy Las Vegas!



Martha Rutherford de La Soujeole of Scott's Valley, California relaxes with family at the Aladdin's pool.

LAS VEGAS CONTINUED...



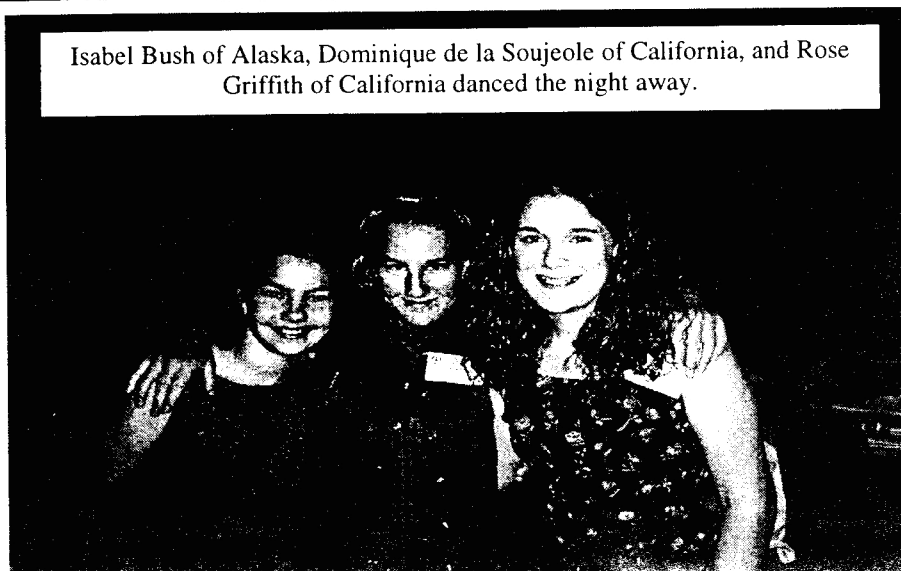
Randy Saad, Dr. Ernest McCarus, and Selma Bassett Edinger



Randy and Mary Catherine Saad and their kids, Daniel, Christian and Jessica Saad.



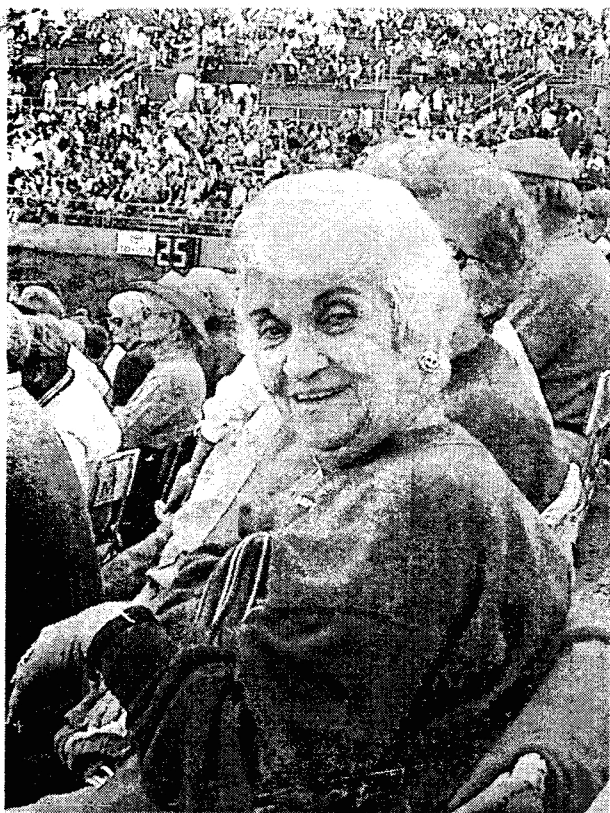
Jan Katherdale and Phillip de la Soujeole relax by the pool in the afternoon.



Isabel Bush of Alaska, Dominique de la Soujeole of California, and Rose Griffith of California danced the night away.



The Chairman of the Board was always busy...



Kfeirians Love Marshall!



Faces From Vegas...

COLUMBUS

OHIO

TN 2002

DON'T
MISS IT
MAKE YOUR
PLANS
NOW!!!

DON'T
MISS IT
MAKE YOUR
PLANS
NOW!!!



BEST FRIENDS

Nazik Hanna and Fahwa El Ayssami were the best of friends in Kfeir, Lebanon. This photo was taken in 1947, in Beirut, prior to Nazik and her son George departing Lebanon for America.

While **George Hanna** and his wife **Gloria** were in Kfeir last year, they spent an afternoon with **Tahar El Ayssami** among other relatives and friends. Tahar related many stories about Nazik and Fahwa. **Slaimen El Ayssami** lives in Brazil and maintains internet and phone contact with his mother's best friend.

Fadwa Naoufa, wife of **Simon Naoufa** of Riverside, CA, is the daughter of Tahar El Ayssami and granddaughter of Fahwa.

TRUE STORY

When **Catherine Hamaty Bolus** of Bethesda, MD, was 2½ years old, her mother took her to a White House Easter Egg Hunt.

During the hunt Catherine managed to wander away from her mother. The frantic search that followed found **President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge** holding Catherine in his arms and asking if anyone had lost their child.

IN OUR MAILBOX

A Thank You Card. I really appreciated your kindness-- Thank you very much. November 29, 2001.

Dear Mr. Hanna,

I would like to thank you along with the entire Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Committee for giving me this honor. It will be very helpful financially as well as being a representative for my Kfeirian heritage. I am enjoying my college experience, and making great life-long friends and I appreciate you helping me reach my goals. Thank you.

Sincerely, **ERIC GRIMM**

AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE... Our youth are a great investment in a great heritage. Send in your check today — Support the Scholarship project. These are our KIDS! Let's show them we care!

HISTORY OF A CHURCH BELL

A History of Church Bell at St. George Orthodox Church Kfeir, Lebanon

In early 1925, Nicholas and Katra Bassett passed away within five months of each other. Their son, Phillip Bassett, a successful business man in the United States, was forced to return to his native village of Kfeir, Lebanon, to take care of and rear his sibling sisters, Emily, Nazik, Nouha, Asma, and Elaine. Nazik, now Nazik Hanna, and Asma, now Asma Hodge are the only two of these sisters that are still alive today.

St. George Orthodox Church in Kfeir purchased a bell to be housed in the tower on the church roof, however, the church did not have enough money or the means to have the bell shipped to Kfeir. While tending to his siblings, Mr. Bassett offered to travel to the bell manufacturer in Lebanon and brought the bell back at his own expense to Hasbaya.

The bell had been driven by car by Mr. Bassett to Hasbaya, but, in 1925-26, roads did not extend from Hasbaya to Kfeir. How to get the bell to Kfeir? Well Mr. Bassett gathered several young men from the village. Salem Kassab (now 101 years old), Toufic Saad, Moussa Hanna, Ramez and Fayez Bassett, Kamel Basset, Michael Nassar, Eliz Abou Jamra and others built a wooden platform. They placed the bell on the platform and hoisted it upon their shoulders. They sang songs to keep their minds off how heavy the load was as they journeyed the ten mile trek up the steep terrain of the mountain to the church. When they reached the outskirts of Kfeir, the townspeople greeted them with cheers and escorted them with song to St. George Orthodox Church.

The information in this article was contributed by Mrs. Nazik Bassett Hanna

WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Raffle at the 69th Kfeirian Reunion: **Nancy Griffith, Madelyn Van Meter**, and Grand Prize Winner, **Ray McCarus**. Winners shared a pot of \$790.00

RECUPERATING

Mrs. Josephine Bassett, widow of Phillip Bassett, was recently hospitalized. She had to have a pacemaker installed to stabilize her heart rhythm. She is doing well and at home recuperating.

Nazik Hanna, mother of George Hanna recently fell and broke her hip. She is at home at the present recovering from that fall and from another one of less seriousness while in the hospital. She is under the watchful eye of her son, George, who is well known for his devotion to his mother.

We wish both of these great Kfeirian ladies a speedy recovery and may God bless.

ANNIVERSARIES

Monica and Kevin Donley, celebrated this first anniversary in May 2001. They were married in Monica's hometown of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Andrew and Stephanie Branco celebrated their first anniversary in November 11, 2001, which is also Andrew's uncle **John Thabet** and his wife, **Barbara Thabet's** 34th anniversary.

Kevin Donley and Andrew Branco are grandsons of Jim Monsour Thabet, John Thabet's father.

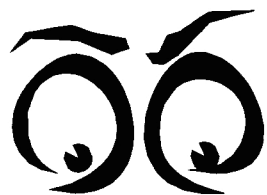
STORK STOPS

Richard Anthony and Michelle Skaff Biafora welcomed **Joseph Nicholas Biafora** on January 23, 2001.

Dr. David Louis and Katyna Skaff welcomed their son on February 14, 2001.

Helen Abourezk Ramey and Fayez Ramey are the great grandparents of Dr. David Skaff and Michelle Biafora.

Chris and Zozo McCarus welcomed their son **John Bangade McCarus** on March 1, 2001. His sister **Aurelie** is 7 years old.



Looking Back...

TEN YEARS AGO, The 1991 Kferian Reunion Foundation NEWSLETTER reported that:

Six 1991 KRF Scholars were chosen:

“Joseph C. Branco, San Antonio, TX, son of Lois (Thabet) Branco, and grandson of Jim Monsour Thabet...

Andréa Michele Evans, Lost Creek, PA,.... The daughter of Paul and Michele Evans, and granddaughter of Nima Kourey Evans...

Tony Ayoub Saad, Huntington, WV, the son of Rose and the late Ayoub Saad....

Karen Amelia Salamy, Whitesville, WV, the daughter of Alfred Essa and Beverly Salamy....

Elizabeth Jean Tabet, Van Nuys, CA, the daughter of Edward and Daphne Thabet, and granddaughter of Toufic and Rasmia Thabet...

Samira Jo Thabet, Charleston, WV, the daughter of Charles and Layla Thabet....”

ALSO IN THE NEWS IN 1991:

“Paul A. Saad, Sr., 62, Tampa, Florida, passed away October 4, 1991, at home. Born on March 6, 1929, to Jasper and Clara Sword Saad, he was honored as one of the most outstanding attorneys in the nation by Lawyers in America, an association affiliated with Harvard Law School..... Surviving are his mother, Clara Sword Saad, Pikeville, three children: Paul A., Jr. And Stuart Morgan Saad, Tampa and Valarie Saad, Oklahoma, City, OK; two sisters Rose Farley and Lucille Smith, Pikeville.”

“Selma Bassett Edinger, Columbus, Ohio has been promoted to the position of Comptroller of Hockaden & Associates, a civil engineering firm. Selma has been employed there for 32 years. In August, Selma vacationed on a cruise ship tour from Anchorage to Seattle, accompanied by her sister, Lorraine Bassett Scott of Palo Alto, CA.”

“One of the largest families at the 59th reunion was the Abraham family with sixteen members represented. The main body of the Abrahams live in the Williamson, West Virginia area.”

“Jeanette Cantees and Paul McCoy, South Williamson, KY, celebrated the 40th anniversary of their marriage on September 23, 1991. Jeannette and Paul have long been active in the Kferian Reunion Foundation.” *Editorial Note: We really miss Paul. He was a great asset to our group and loved by all.*

Some very interesting things were noted when reading A SNAPSHOT OF KFEIR by Michael el-Hage in 1991 as it reported that:

“Official name of Kfeir: appears on government maps and documents as Kfeir El-Zait, Kfeir Zait, El-Kfeir, and Kfeir, but we Kfeirians call it Kfeir.” **It’s dimensions** are 2 miles east-to-west and ¾ mile north-to-south and **is located in South Lebanon** in the foot hills of Mount Hermon. **Also reported:** that there are four employees in **the mail center** and it is frequently paralyzed, but mail does frequently arrive. For all practical purposes **there are no taxes.** (*Don’t everyone head back at once*). **There are five members of council** and a president, but **no government funds are available** to the council for improvement projects. **The chief entertainment is card playing and gossip.** Social affairs and politics are discussed in the grocery stores in an open forum. **Lebanon Power and Light furnishes electricity only 12 hours out of 36.** There is **no telephone system.** There is **no sewer system.** Each home has a primitive septic system. **The average Kfeiran laborer** is a Jack-of-all-trades. **Honey, olives and olive oil** produced in Kfeir is considered the highest quality available in Lebanon. There are **no restaurants or coffee shops**, only a cafeteria on the school grounds. serving short orders.

In the news now, 2001...

NOV 3, HUNTINGTON, WV. **Julian and Jihad Saad**, of Huntington, have purchased and are operating Mansour’s Original Market, located at 12th Street and 11th Avenue. The Market is popular with many Tri-State residents. The

Saad’s plan to continue the established traditions of Mansour’s market along with adding a flair of their own. Julian has served on past reunion committees and he and his wife invite all Kfeirans to stop in and see them. whenever in Huntington.

Czech this out! A Young Czech in America by Jim Donley



Zuzana and her neice, Shannon Donley (great granddaughter of Jim Monsour Thabet), danced the night away.

In June, 2001, a young girl was about to embark on an adventure beyond her wildest dreams. Zuzana Misakova (pronounced Zoo-zon-ah Me-sha-co-va), my 9 yr. old half sister-in-law, was coming to America. She was leaving her native Czech Republic and traveling across the ocean for the first time. She was leaving a small village where beef is rarely sold, where horse-drawn carts can still be seen traversing the roads and where telephones are a luxury. Her teacher let her leave

school early because of the education she would receive visiting the U.S. Her fellow classmates only had one request for her Tell them how Disneyland is!

Her first weekend was in New York City. The tallest skyscraper she had seen up to that point was the 10 story apartment building she lived in. The more we walked, the more her neck got cramped from looking up. Her visit to FAO Schwartz's world famous toy store was equivalent to St. Nicolas coming to her house 365 days out of the year. She couldn't leave without buying a bubble maker. After an afternoon on Ellis Island to do Thabet research and ending up hitting the jackpot on my wife Ivana's side, we finished the day in typical Czech fashion..... walking. We walked nearly half the way across Manhattan, from the docks all the way to 53rd.... a drop in the bucket for Czechs... a workout for Americans!

No trip would be complete without a visit to my family in Detroit. En route to my hometown, I introduced Zuzana to the nice police in Ohio and demonstrated to her what it is like getting a speeding ticket. Zuzana's introduction to a July 4th party with my nieces and nephews showed us that anyone can overcome the language barrier. They played in a kiddie pool for hours even though Zuzana had to watch as she had no bathing suit. While Ivana and I tried to prevent the kids from splashing water on Zuzana's clothes, she felt otherwise and jumped in the water clothes and all! Additional entertainment was spent visiting the grocery store as Zuzana marveled at the dozens of cereal boxes and ice creams that lined the shelves.

After many weeks in Washington D.C. learning about who Abraham Lincoln was and drinking tootie fruitie drinks, we were finally off to Las Vegas where Zuzana surely left her mark. She spent her hours by the pool (during her visit to the U.S., she spent an average of 5 hrs a day by a swimming pool!) and tried to adjust to the sweltering heat. Her shyness disappeared as soon as she hit the dance floor. From the dubki to "Never on a Sunday", Zuzana danced to every song that was played. The 1st night I made her go to bed at midnight, slightly disappointing "Cinderella". The 2nd night the old man gave in, and went to bed at 1:00am while Zuzana kept dancing the morning away. She made a lot of friends those two nights, even without exchanging a word of English.

Zuzana is back in the Czech Republic now, and was very sad to leave. She never was able to get to Disneyland while she was here, but she definitely met her share of characters along the way and saw a small piece of America in the process.

It is nice to know the Kfeirian extended family now includes the Czech Republic



Dancing Queen: Rose Scott's First Reunion

Little Rose Rahija Scott was enthralled with the music. Her grandmother, Lorraine Bassett Scott, sent this picture in and wrote:

"I am enclosing a picture of my granddaughter doing the dubkie at the reunion in July. I couldn't get over it. She has never heard that music before or ever been to a reunion before —after all, she was only 13 months old. When she heard the music and saw the people dancing, she ran to the

dance floor and started clapping her hands and moving her feet. I caught this shot of her laughing and having a grand time. She kept dancing until she almost dropped."

Rose Scott is the daughter of Paul Scott and his wife, Valerie, who live in San Francisco, CA. Rosie is named after her great-grandmother, Rahija Bassett and is the apple of her grandmother, Lorraine's, eye.

Then and Now: Saad Family Hosts a Mini-Reunion by Abe Bassett



Saad or Sadd? Some spell their name with two "a's" while others spell it with two "d's." But the name is pronounced the same and all who bear it are cousins. They are the forty-six members of the extended Saad family who held a mini-reunion in Las Vegas on Saturday, July 21.

All are descendants of Assef or Ayoub Saad of Kfeir, shown in the photograph above. Assef was the father of five children: Sam, Jaspar, Maheba Kerbawy, Rahija Bassett and Della McCarus. All except Sam had children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at the mini-reunion. Assef lived briefly in Toledo, Ohio, but returned to Kfeir. Ayoub, who immigrated to Toledo and stayed in America, is the father of George Sadd whose children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were in attendance. During the mini-reunion all persons introduced themselves and cousins met cousins whom they'd never known.

Some learned that the proper pronunciation of "Saad" consists of two syllables, as in "Sah-aaahd." Descendants of George Sadd spell their name with one two "d's," while the descendants of Assef Saad use two "a's."

In happy confusion was the meeting of Randy Saad, married to

Mary, who met Randy Sadd, also married to a Mary. Randolph Saad, grandson of Jaspar Saad, is from Ventura, California, while Randal Sadd, grandson of George Sadd, makes his home in Georgia. Friendly debates centered on whether a pair of cousins were "first cousins, twice removed"—or simply "second cousins."

A large turnout from Western states attended, including residents of California, Alaska, Montana, Colorado and Nevada. This was the first Kfeirian reunion for several of the cousins and it was the second meeting of the extended Saad family.

The reunion was organized by Jameel Sadd and by Abe Bassett who maintains an address file and genealogy records on the Saad family. Genealogy records of the McCarus family were shown by Ernest McCarus who may be contacted at enm@umich.edu. The book, *Memories of Rahija*, with photographs from Kfeir was also exhibited. Abe may be contacted at abassett@infinet.com.

A group photograph taken at the end of the reunion by Douglas Bassett unfortunately omits several people who were required to leave early to attend the business meeting. Many have expressed hope for a future meeting.

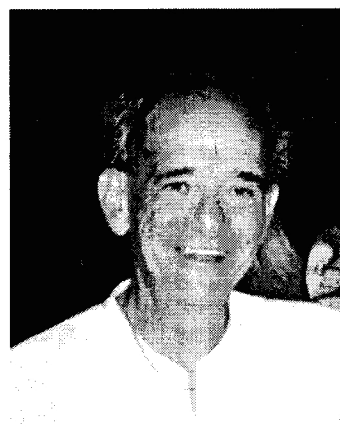
Other Mini-Reunions in the works...

Fresh off a successful Saad family reunion, co-organizer Abe Bassett is hoping to do the same for the Bassett family in Columbus at the 70th Kfeirian Reunion.

To be included in the invitation list are not only those whose last names are Bassett, Bassit, Bassiet or Al-Bassit, but importantly those women and their descendants who at one point in their lives bore the name Bassett.

Compiling a mailing list of the Bassetts, never before done, will be a challenge. A letter will be sent soon to all persons who are obviously of the Bassett family, but a call is issued to all whose ancestry are of the Bassett family to identify themselves. Please contact Abe at abassett@infinet.com, or by calling (937) 426-2235, or at (800) 401-2580. Abe's mailing address is 4085 Danern Drive, Bea-

vercreek, Ohio 45430. Other mini-reunions are also being planned. If you need assistance with acquiring a meeting space or reserving a place at a restaurant in Columbus, contact Matthew Bassiet at mbassiet@columbus.rr.com or call him at (614)252-1311.



New Board member Abe Bassett helped orchestrate the Saad mini-reunion in Las Vegas.

Kfeirian Weddings

Bells have been ringing... It was the year of weddings for the Fouad and Joann Nassar family. Sisters



Angela Rose Nassar and Amira Jean Nassar each married this past year.

Angela Rose Nassar and Samir C. Moussa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Afif Moussa were united in Holy

Matrimony on June 9, 2001, at St. Elias Church in Toledo, Ohio.

The sister of the bride, Amira Jean, was maid of honor. Best man was Souhel C. Moussa, brother of the groom.

There were 225 guests at the reception held at the Sylvania Country Club. Arabic music and dancing were enjoyed by all.

Samir and Angela reside in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Then on October 20, 2001, at St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church in Sylvania, Ohio, Amira Jean Nassar became the

bride of Anthony James Pedro. Anthony is the son of John and Laura Pedro.

Matron of Honor was Angela Moussa, sister of the bride. Best Man was brother of the groom, Nickolas Pedro. The bride was escorted by her father.

Amira and Anthony's was a most beautiful wedding with three Orthodox Priests officiating.

The bride and groom traveled to the reception in a "T" Model Ford. And what a reception it was. Everyone danced the night away to Arabic and American Music. The Nassars know how to put on a party!

Amira and Anthony reside in Toledo, Ohio.



JamieKay LaFear became the bride of Gregory George Hanna, September 22, 2001, at the First Presbyterian Church, Huntington, West Virginia. Dr. Roger Rabey performed the wedding ceremony.

Jamie is the daughter of John and Karen Lafear of Huntington. Gregory is the son of George and Gloria Hanna of Huntington.

The bride was escorted by her father. George Hanna served as best man for his son. A reception was held at Marshall University Don Morrie Hall. Louis Rahall of Fayetteville, West Virginia, Godfather of the groom served as master of ceremonies. Stratus Band of Charleston, West Virginia provided the American music along with Arabic music for the more than 300 guests.

Jamie and Greg reside in Huntington, West Virginia

In Memoriam...

Oor condolences to the families of the following Kfeirians:



Tom Abourezk passed away on April 19, 2001.

Madeline Abraham, 87, a renowned florist, co-owner of the Flower Nook of Williamson, WV died May 1, 2001. She was the daughter of the late Mike and Amy Aborizk Abraham.



Toufie L. Kassab, 59, and his wife **Linda L. Kassab**, 61, died May 16, 2001, as a result of an automobile accident. Toufie as the son of Lucille Thabit Kassab of Huntington and the late Toufie Kassab. Linda was the daughter of of late Sameul S. and Margaret Lindsay Verbage. The couple was proceeded in death by their daughter, Christina Michelle

Kassab. Survivors include daughter, Tiffany Kassab of Atlanta, and son Michael Cooper of Lexington, as well as sisters, brothers and other family members

Major Aaron Cooper George, 37, died July 17, 2001, while on a test mission in an F-16 flying out of Edwards AFB, California. He is the son of Loud and Betty Neumeyer George of Huntington, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Mackey George and children Jessica, Joshua and Jacob as well as numerous family and friends.

Wadad Bassett Bofysil of Lansing, Michigan, passed away on September 21, 2001, following a long illness. She was preceded in death by her husband, Najeeb Bofysil. Surviving is her son Michael Bofysil of Lansing. Wadad was the daughter of Abraham and Rahija Bassett from Columbus, Ohio. The surviving siblings are Gladys Parlette, Selma Edinger, Alice Rutherfordale, Loraine Scott and Abe Bassett. Wadad and her sons attended Kfeirian reunions faithfully and enjoyed meeting with relatives and friends.



Emily Tweel, 93, passed away on August 20, 2001. She is preceded in death by her husband Samuel John Tweel, sisters Rosemary Kamees Cox and Sadie Kamees Leonard and brothers Albert, William and Louis Kamees. She is survived by her son, John Alexander Tweel.

Nancy Meadow Ghiz, 56, of South Charleston, West Virginia, passed away. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Lester Ghiz. Survivors include her daughters, Martha Ghiz Drossos of Salt Lake City, Leslie Elizabeth Ghiz of Cincinnati as well as other family and friends.

Lamese G. Thabit, 86, of Huntington died September 24, 2001. She was the owner of Tabit's Restaurant in Huntington. Lamese was the daughter of Nemer and Helen Thabit George. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mike Thabit, sisters Mary George, Florene George and Martha Hage, and two brothers George and William George. She is survived by her children, Louis Thabit of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Elizabeth Hoback of Fort Washington, MD and Andrea Thabit of Huntington, West Virginia.



Dr. George Thabit, Jr., 70, of Encino, California, died. He left behind his wife, Geri, Thabit and his children, George Thabit, III, Bruce Thabit of Malibu, CA, and Dr. Mitchel Thabit of Bakersfield, CA, along with a sister Elsie Hosey of Huntington, WV.



Phillip Abraham, 82, of Slaters Branch, KY, died Thursday, December 13, 2001, at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington, WV. He was the son of the late Mike and Amy Aborizk Abraham. He was a partner in the family business, The Flower Nook. He was preceded in death by two brothers and four sisters. He is survived by two brothers, Jack (Anne) Abraham of Arden, NC and Raymond Abraham of Huntington and a sister, Emily Abraham Haddad of Frankfort, IL

Chris Howard Asmus, 39, of Easley, SC, husband of Diana Joseph Asmus, formerly of Huntington, passed away suddenly October 26, 2001, while at work. Chris was a 1984 graduate of the Citadel and worked as a construction superintendent for many commercial projects in the Greenville, SC area. He attended St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Greenville, SC. He was a member of the Jaycees, the Constuction Estimators Club, the Greenville Citadel Club, and was active in the Cub Scouts, youth soccer and in coaching softball. Besides his devoted wife, he leaves his beloved son, Christopher Joseph, his father and stepmother, Bob and Ina Asmus of Tampa, FL and his brother CDR Robert Asmus of Tampa, Florida.